

protection.⁹⁹ Wright also recalled that the ten foot tall fence around the buildings was partially torn down by Ben Turlington in order to get to the black men inside to arrest and throw them in a wagon to take to the jail.¹⁰⁰ The parts of the fence not damaged by Turlington and the WLI were destroyed by a barrage of weapons fire, completely eradicating the fence and opening the Manhattan Park area for the whites to search. The main building was pockmarked with bullet holes, and its windows had been shattered by the time the firing stopped.¹⁰¹ Evidently there was a large crowd of whites surrounding the Manhattan Park site. Jack Metts recalled that a crowd of citizens had fired first, and “when we [the WLI] fired, the crowd went crazy.”¹⁰² Walker Taylor, in his report to the adjutant general of North Carolina, claimed that the shooting was the only killing by the military during the conflict. After this man was shot, a member of the group responsible for his death was quoted by *Collier’s*: “When we tu’nd him ovah, Misto Niggah had a look o’ ‘sprise on his face!”¹⁰³

The WLI, not satisfied that the responsible parties were either arrested or dead, particularly after a shot was aimed at the military company from the direction of Manhattan Park, searched for other shooters. Men speculated that Josh Halsey fired at the men from the Manhattan Park area; consequently, a detail was sent to find him.

⁹⁹ “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection; *Contested Election Case*, 344.

¹⁰⁰ “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection.

¹⁰¹ See photo of Manhattan Park from Hayden’s *History of the WLI*; Prather, *We Have Taken a City*, 124.

¹⁰² “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection.

¹⁰³ *Collier’s Weekly*, November 26, 1898; Prather, *We Have Taken a City*, 124; *NC Public Documents*, Adjutant General’s Report, 1899.

Private J. F. Maunder recalled that part of the WLI under Sergeant Harriss was lined up in front of Hill Terry’s house at 815 North Fourth Street when they were given orders to find Halsey, who they found at home near Manhattan Park and subsequently shot dead.¹⁰⁴ One WLI member, Private William Robbins, told Maunder that he was “sick to his stomach” at the prospect of shooting someone. Maunder then told Robbins to “not show the white feather or I will shoot you myself.” After the order to fire on Halsey had been executed, Maunder noticed that Robbins had only “snapped” his gun instead of firing it and that his plunger was out and his cartridges were on the ground. Maunder lived in Brooklyn and later indicated that the trying times of living in that section of town had motivated him.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁴ Cronly’s account of Halsey’s shooting indicates that Halsey ran home in fright and then ran from his home via the back door because his daughter begged him to run for his life from the approaching soldiers who then shot him “down like a dog” as he ran. Maunder’s account in the WLI Association Minutes indicates that Halsey was given the opportunity to “run the gauntlet” and was shot at by the squad. He was killed immediately. Jane Cronly, n.d., Cronly Papers, Duke University Library, Durham; “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection; Prather, *We Have Taken a City*, 124-125.

¹⁰⁵ Another man, Thomas Lane, was arrested and found guilty after a trial on November 16 for shooting at the WLI during the activity at Manhattan Park. The *Wilmington Morning Star* observed that if Lane had not “fired into the military it would not have been necessary for them to have shot Josh Halsey, the negro inmate of the place who was killed as a sequel to Lane’s fiendish effort to kill one of the members of the Light Infantry.” Maunder, a clerk with M. W. Divine Company, a sash, blind and paint dealer, lived at 624 North Fourth Street, a predominately white neighborhood in Brooklyn near the transition between majority white and black housing. “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 16, 1898; Hayumi Higuchi 1897 Map of Wilmington; 1897 *Wilmington City Directory*.